



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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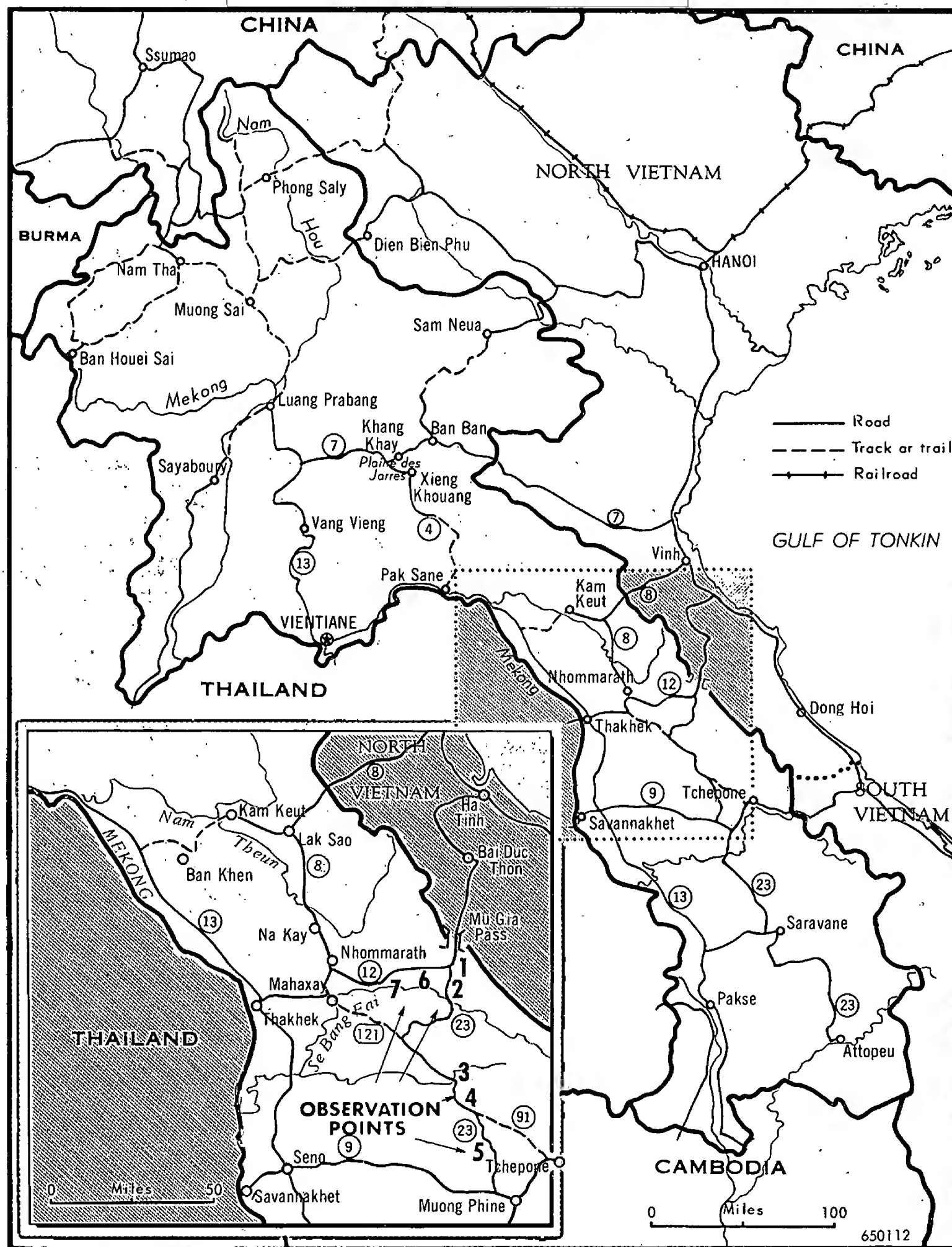


13 JANUARY 1965

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LAOS

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DAILY BRIEF
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1. Laos

The purpose behind the sizable Communist build-up in southern Laos near Tchepone over the past month still remains uncertain. It is not clear whether immediate Communist military intentions here focus principally on Laos or on South Vietnam.

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2. South Vietnam

Buddhist leader Tri Quang says he has started a hunger strike in protest against the Huong government and General Khanh's power. If this does not get results, he threatens several Buddhist self-immolations before the US Embassy. Meanwhile, popular agitation in central South Vietnam has subsided again.

3. Nationalist China

The appointment of Chiang Ching-kuo as Minister of National Defense is another step toward succession to his father's leadership. Up to now he has operated behind the scenes, particularly in security matters. His assumption of a key public office provides him an opportunity to gain recognition and prestige.

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